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Government to Encourage Mineral Development

An Increased Grant For the Purpose is Voted by the Legislature—Mr. Taylor Wants Tests Made at Minto to Ascertain if Oil or Gas Exists There—Health Estimates Put Through With Some Discussion.

The estimates of the Department of Health were before the Legislature last evening in Committee of Supply, and were practically disposed of after explanations had been offered by Hon. Dr. Taylor, the Minister of Health. There was some criticism as is usually the case, but the Minister was able to show that the Department was functioning well and that good service was being given the people at the minimum of cost. The estimates for this department include an item of \$3,000 for an additional district health officer which has been found necessary.

An increased amount for mineral development was voted by the House after a brief discussion taken part in by Mr. Taylor of Sunbury and the Minister of Lands and Mines. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the coal areas at Minto now contribute \$30,000 a year to the revenue of the province in royalties and he urged that part of the amount should be expended in exploration work in that section, with a view of ascertaining whether or not a second seam of coal existed. He intimated that oil and gas might also be found.

The Official Report.

Assembly Chamber,
April 4th, 1927.
The House met at 8.40 p. m.
The following Bills were read a third time,—Acts; to enable the City of Saint John to repair the Great Marsh Aboldeau; to fix the valuation for assessment of the Union Foundry and Machine Works, Limited; to amend the Municipalities Act in relation to the County of Carleton; to incorporate the Church of England Cemetery in the City of Saint John; to authorize the City of Moncton to issue debentures; to fix the assessment value of Havelock Mineral Springs Company in the City of Moncton; relating to the Wiggins Male Orphanage Institution; respecting a Side Line of Union Street in the City of Saint John; to amend the Municipalities Act relating to the County of Kings.

The following Bills were read a second time,—Acts; relating to the Incorporation of Perth Centre for Water and Fire Purposes; respecting the Board of Management of the Saint John Teachers' Retirement Fund; to incorporate the Village of Aroostook Junction for Electric Light, Power and Heat; regarding the Old Ladies' Home of Saint John; to Legitimate Eldred Allison Lucas; to authorize the Town of Edmundston to issue Debentures; to incorporate the Petitcodiac Tidal Power Company; to Authorize the City of Fredericton to issue Debentures.

HON. MR. SMITH on behalf of Hon. Mr. Reilly, moved the suspension of the Rules to enable the introduction of an Act to empower the Trustees of the Moncton Public Hospital to issue Debentures.
MR. SMITH (Carleton) with the unanimous consent of the House, presented a Petition and introduced a Bill to incorporate the Bath, Bristol and Florenceville Hydro Electric District.
HON. MR. BAXTER moved that Rule 77 be suspended in connection with the above Act.

House in Supply.

The House went into Committee on Supply, and took up the estimates relating to the Department of Health.
HON. DR. TAYLOR, referring to the item of \$9,000.00 for District Medical Health Officers, said that it had been felt that with due regard to economy and efficiency, an additional District Health Officer should be appointed, and that \$3,000 was asked more than last year.
MR. MICHAUD commended the Minister's action and said he hoped that he (Hon. Mr. Taylor) would forget his criticisms of Health expenditures in years gone by.

Some Criticism.

MR. MELVILLE said he could not understand how the addition of \$3,000 was in the interests of economy. This Health Act was twenty-five years ahead of the times and he did not think the country got the service the expenditure should indicate. One visit a year to schools was about all the country districts got. There was no improvement in children's health, and as far as he could see no attempt to make any improvement. In his opinion it was time a halt was called. The population was not increasing, health was no better, and yet expenditure was constantly going up. He objected strongly to the way the Act was carried out in the country. Poor parents were threatened with fines if they sent their children to school when they could not afford to carry out recommendations made by the Health Officers, who gave no direct relief to the conditions.

The Minister Replies.

HON. MR. TAYLOR said one result had been the establishment of Health Clinics at various country centres, where people could bring their children for advice and treatment without any expense, a work which was warmly commended by the Women's Institutes and various other organizations. Referring to laboratory work in Saint John, he said that institution was practically self-sustaining, and did free analytical work last year, which, if it had been paid for, would have cost \$17,000. It was also a distributing centre for all serums and vaccine, to the value of at least \$4,000 last year.

MR. MICHAUD said he understood that the Health regulations in the City of Saint John were not very well observed, and thought there should be

an official appointed to secure the observance. At the present time in the Moncton district terrible results were apparent from non-observance of regulations in regard to the milk supply, and farmers could not now ship their milk and cream to the United States.

Pasteurized Milk.

HON. MR. TAYLOR thought that health regulations in Saint John were very well enforced. Over 16,000 quarts of pasteurized milk were now sold there daily as against only 150 quarts of raw milk. Infant mortality in that city last summer was lower than ever before.

He thought the medical inspection of schools was well carried out. A few years ago part time medical inspection of schools cost more than full time inspection did now. Referring to the venereal disease grant of \$6,000, he said the Federal Government gave an equal amount with the Province. On the item of \$2,800 for treatment and board to patients without domicile to the Saint John County Hospital, there was some discussion.

MR. MICHAUD thought this grant should apply to other Counties as well as Saint John.

HON. MR. TAYLOR said that there were a good many cases came to the Saint John Hospital off of ships and from various parts of the Province, which could not be in the interests of humanity be refused admittance or turned out on the streets.

Hospital Grants.

MR. TAYLOR, referring to the item of \$11,450, grants to various hospitals, thought that where the Province was giving grants the Department of Health should have some control over the treatment given by the Hospital Boards to different Municipalities.

HON. MR. TAYLOR said these grants were so small that not much could be expected in the way of free service on account of them.

MR. AGAR said he had had a good deal of experience in connection with the Saint John Hospital, and so far as the hospitals were concerned he thought they gave a good deal more than they got from the Municipalities.

A Sunbury Complaint.

MR. TAYLOR said so far as the County of Sunbury was concerned, it had had no trouble with Saint John Hospital, but a great deal of difficulty with the Fredericton Hospital, where most extravagant charges had been made, and admission refused to patients from that County. The people of Sunbury contributed to the Provincial grants to Hospitals, and he thought Counties such as Sunbury without hospitals should have some consideration.

HON. MR. RICHARDS said all hospitals had more or less difficulty in financing. Difficulties between the Fredericton Hospital and the County of York had arisen, but had been amicably settled. He was not informed as to the Sunbury County case.

Doing Good Work.

HON. MR. TAYLOR, referring to the grant to the Saint John Tuberculosis Hospital, said the amount of good that both this hospital and the Riverglade Sanatorium were doing was only limited by the money available. Both institutions were doing splendid work and unfortunately there were many more patients than they could accommodate.

MR. MICHAUD said he was glad to know that the hon. Minister had taken instruction from the accomplishments from Louis Pasteur, and was following the example of his immediate predecessor. He had been pleased to hear him praise the work done by the Saint John Tuberculosis Hospital, and to increase even to a slight degree the grant to that Institution. He hoped the good work would continue.

HON. MR. BAXTER said that the hon. members of the House should know that this was not really a grant. Small as it was it would reduce the cost of maintenance of patients from outside counties as well as from Saint John. There might be a proposition to increase the amount. Whether at this session or another he could not say. There really was great need for this treatment.

All items of the Health Department totalling \$111,070 were passed. The estimates for Education were then taken up.

Education Expenses.

HON. MR. BAXTER, speaking of the item of leave to the principal of the Provincial Normal School, said



HON. DR. TAYLOR.

Minister of Health Who Piloted His Estimates Through the House Last Evening.

that it had been decided to give Dr. Bridges six months' leave on account of the condition of his health and to supply a substitute for that time in order that he could have full enjoyment.

Mineral Development.

MR. TAYLOR (Sunbury) speaking to the item off \$16,200 for mining development and diamond drill, said he understood this was practically a new item. In the past little had been done. There had been no research work or employment of geologists. He would like to call attention to the fact that the only extensive mining in the Province was carried on in Sunbury and Queens Counties. For some years past that industry had produced a revenue of \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year for the Province. Anyone receiving that amount annually should be willing to put something back in the business, but the Province never had done so. Some geologists had expressed opinions concerning the possibility of a lower seam of coal existing in the Minto field. Opinion had been divided. Some claimed that the fossils discovered below the existing seam were of such old formation that there was little likelihood of coal existing below that. However, he had been informed that that had been disproved elsewhere in the world. Not long ago in Kent County, England, near London, a coal mine had been opened on a seam very similar to what might exist beneath the present seam worked in Minto. A number of the operators at Minto had been approached with regard to joint action concerning the sinking of a test hole which would prove beyond all doubt whether a second coal seam existed or not. Two difficulties had been encountered. One consisted in the fact that some years ago the Province had been laid off in alternate blocks, and rights given for coal and oil. One company had been given very extensive rights. There was a chance that drilling in the lower carboniferous measures would produce oil or gas, and under the circumstances the finder would not know where he stood on account of the rights given to that old company. There also was doubt whether mining rights on the top seam would cover the lower seam. He would seriously advise the hon. Minister of Lands and Mines that of the amount provided at least half would be applied to deciding whether oil or gas existed in Sunbury and Queens Counties. Last session the subject of burning New Brunswick coal in Provincial Buildings had been brought up. In connection with that matter he could only inform the hon. members that they were sitting in a chamber heated by New Brunswick coal. Minto coal had been purchased at \$7.00 per ton, compared with anthracite coal at \$15.00 per ton. In order that there be no shortage, more Minto coal had been ordered than had been estimated would be enough. He had inquired of the janitor and had been informed that enough Minto coal was left over to heat the building next year. This result had been very satisfactory.

To Encourage Mining.

HON. MR. RICHARDS said that this was a new item and was the beginning of an attempt to ascertain whether or not New Brunswick contained considerable mineral deposits could be substantiated. The time had been reached when the Government itself must do something to give encouragement to mining. He had in mind the coal districts of Sunbury and Queens but he could not say what proportion of the item would be expended there. The appropriation, unfortunately, was small. If the services of an expert geologist were secured, they would be expensive. It was only reasonable that attention would be given to the area mentioned. He had discussed the subject with the hon. member for Queens, and personally would like to know if a second seam existed in the Minto district. The diamond drill as equipped, was capable of boring to a depth of one thousand feet. To secure the necessary knowledge concerning the Minto field, it would be necessary to bore to a depth of two thousand or twenty-five hundred feet. That would entail considerable expenditure but must be considered. Reference to the diamond drill had been made last year. He could inform the Committee

THE PUSSY WILLOWS PURR WITHOUT AID OF SPRING POET; WHEN OTHER PLANTS AWAKEN

(Arthur Peterson in Toledo Blade)

In the March woods there is no place for the lyric poet. The general public and his own welfare are served best when he is met at an entrance of the deep tangled wildwood by a short-tempered long-horned husband of a cow and chased back to home-base.

If the neighborhood cows are without husbands a good substitute is a detachment of sturdy militiamen under instructions to seize the versifier by the scuff of the neck and the contact-area of the trousers and heave him out of the danger zone.

For it is in March that Nature begins her house cleaning campaign; and Nix is the name of the poet able to worry through a spring renovation campaign with head unbloated and unbowed.

When Brooks Babble.

In April the great open spaces set up shop as a kindergarten for matriculation plants and the college yell is "Raw! Raw! Raw!" The babbling brooks babble, but they run ice water. The zephyrs zeph, but they are chill offspring of the winter wind. Hither, thither and yon the fresh green of new leaves dots the dun earth but what one finds is skunk-cabbage.

Verily, there is much in the bleak woods of March to reduce a pink and delicate poet to sheer daffiness but the rhymed by-products of his expedition would find a limited market. The Journal of the American Undertakers' association might buy 'em.

Woods Withstand Progress.

Here are April woods marvelously intact against the onslaughts of progress—the splendid preserve of the Boy Scout reservation near Sylvania which harbors the last full portions of Toledo's nearly-spent heritage of wildflowers.

Water-loving willows dip their roots in a swollen, running creek, smudges of chalky-gray across their masses of slender branches—the "pusses" almost catkins now. Their neighbors on the other side of the valley, the taller poplars are discarding their own limp catkins steadily, and dangling from lithe, whip-like branches of young alders may be found other soft "catkin" formations.

A resinous excretion has made rubbery knobs on the bark of a wild cherry tree; mosses padding the trunk-bases of trees are pierced by asparagus like shoots; a green flush lies along the twigs of the sassafras bush, inviting the passerby to nibble and test one of the vegetable kingdom's most pungent flavors—all these are evidences of the rising spring.

But in all this there is nothing of striking beauty for our poet, unless one excepts the pussy-willow, which is rather more homely than exotic.

There is pleasure in noticing that the blueberry shrub is sending out its first tiny leaf-clusters and that tender shoots rise in the wild raspberry colonies but it is a mild, serene pleasure, subtler than the rhapsody which plagues poets.

It is not a jest that the blossom of the skunk cabbage has a dark beauty peculiarly its own. You may see how it now—wherever marsh or drainage ditch keep a rich soil soggy. You will find a single leaf, perhaps six inches high shaped like a curled sharp pointed ear.

If it is a new blossom you will find it tinted in variants of green, from a deep tile shade to a lighter green than that of lettuce. Older, it blends sombre shades of red and yellow, intermingling them in de-

that during the past year the drill had been in operation for some time and the sum of \$873.00 had been earned on a salary of \$1,200.

MR. TAYLOR (Sunbury) said that he could speak with some authority for the coal operators of Minto and could assure their co-operation to the hon. Minister. They were to share in the expense—they would want to share in the profits, if any.

The Committee rose and reported progress.
HON. MR. LEGER moved that further consideration of Supply be made the Order of the Day for tomorrow at 3 o'clock.
Adjourned at 10.25 p. m.

signs almost Persian and each design is unique.

Inside the "ear" is a thick pistil billous-yellow and knobby, like the spike studded clubs fairy-book giants and ogres carry. This flower is a bit like the overrated jack-in-the-pulpit whose blossoming is an incident of late spring.

Unless your sense of smell has succumbed to a bad cold, don't pluck a bouquet of skunk-cabbage blossoms. You will find that you have plucked a rich and heady concentrated fragrance not unlike the personal odor of the celebrated polecat. Obviously this is not a poet's flower. It is a comic valentine blossom.

Other Plants Awaken.

Few other plants have pierced the heavy blanket of last year's leaves. The faintly-purple foliage of the hardy hepatica show through here and there and if one is fortunate he may find a blossom. The white and yellow violets are at work, and one may see everywhere the ground hugging mullen with its pale rosettes of broad, flat leaves, each one upholstered in silky, deep pile violet.

Thus the wild places are preparing themselves for the lavish extravagance, the world's original "Blossom Time" whose first scenes will be enacted as soon as the stage-manager, Old Man Weather rings up the curtain. This may be in two or three weeks. It all depends—

Until then the seasonal poet well may be held in check, closely guarded, swathed in red flannels and on a strict vegetarian diet.

Sometimes we go to bed at night feeling like a spring poem and get up in the morning feeling like a volume to government statistics.

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